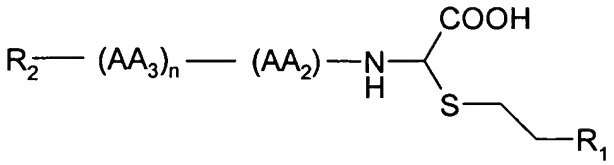
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) Compounds of general formula I



I

wherein

R_1 means a CH_2NH_2 or $NHC(NH)NH_2$ group,

AA_2 means non-substituted or substituted lysine, ornithine, arginine or histidine, wherein the substituents are common protective groups,

AA_3 means a natural amino acid in which a present, protectable group may be substituted with a usual protective group in the side chain,

n represents 0 or 1, and

R_2 means a Bz, Bzl, Ac, Boc, Z, Suc, MeoSuc or Tos group,

provided that the following cases do not occur simultaneously: n = 0, R_1 = $NHC(NH)NH_2$, R_2 = Z and (AA_2) = non-substituted or Boc-substituted lysine,

as racemated or as enantiomeric pure isomers,

and the salts thereof with mineral or organic acids.

2. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein AA_2 represents Lys(ε-Z), Lys(ε-Boc), Lys(ε-Ac), Lys(ε-Bz), Lys(ε-Bzl), Lys(ε-Tos), Orn(δ-Z), Orn(δ-Boc), Orn(δ-2-chlor-Z), Orn(δ-Dnp), Orn(δ-Z), Orn(δ-Aloc), Arg(ω-Pbf), Arg(δ,ω-Boc)$_2$, Arg(δ,ω-Z)$_2$, Arg(ω-Tos), His(N^{im}-Boc), His(N^{im}-Ac), His(N^{im}-Bz),His(N^{im}-Bzl) or His(N^{im}-Tos), Lys(ε-Z) being preferred.

3. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein AA_3 means

Ala, Ser, Phe, Val, Ile, Leu, Thr, Pro, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Glu, Asn, Gln, Cys, Met, Trp, Tyr or Gly, wherein a present, protectable group may be substituted with a common protective group, such as tBu, Bzl or Ac, in the side chain.

4. (Original) Compounds according to claim 3, wherein AA_3 means Phe, Ala, Val or Ser possibly protected with tBu, Bzl or Ac.

5. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 means $NHC(NH)NH_2$,

AA_2 means Val, Lys(ε-Z) or Lys(ε-Boc),

AA_3 means Ala, Ser, Phe, Val, Ser(tBu), Ser(Bzl) or Ser(Ac),

n represents 0 or 1, and

R_2 represents Bz, Boc or Z.

6. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 means CH_2NH_2,

AA_2 means Val, Lys(ε-Z) or Lys(ε-Boc),

AA_3 means Ala, Ser, Phe, Val, Ser(tBu), Ser(Bzl) or Ser(Ac),

n represents 0 or 1, and

R_2 represents Bz, Boc or Z.

7. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 6~~ thereby characterized that they are present as acid addition salts in the form of hydrobromides, hydrochlorides, trifluoracetates or acetates.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Method for the determination of Thrombin-Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor a (TAFIa) comprising reaction of TAFIa in the presence of 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) on a compound according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 7~~ and

spectrophotometric measurement of the absorption between 400 and 412 nm resulting from the formation of 3-carboxy-4-nitrothiophenol as a function of time.

10. (Original) Method according to claim 9 thereby characterized that the reaction takes place for 5 to 15 minutes, preferably for 10 minutes at a temperature between 10°C and 37°C, in particular at room temperature.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ thereby characterized that ~~the~~ Thrombin-Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor (TAFI) present in blood plasma is used as a ~~the~~ source of TAFIa.

12. (Original) Method for the preparation of formula I as defined in claim 1 comprising alkaline saponification of a corresponding alkylester.

13. (New) Compounds according to claim 2, wherein AA_3 means Ala, Ser, Phe, Val, Ile, Leu, Thr, Pro, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Glu, Asn, Gln, Cys, Met, Trp, Tyr or Gly, wherein a present, protectable group may be substituted with a common protective group, such as tBu, Bzl or Ac, in the side chain.

14. (New) Compounds according to claim 13, wherein AA_3 means Phe, Ala, Val or Ser possibly protected with tBu, Bzl or Ac.

15. (New) Compounds according to claim 2, wherein the compounds are present as acid addition salts in the form of hydrobromides, hydrochlorides, trifluoracetates or acetates.

16. (New) Compounds according to claim 3, wherein the compounds are present as acid addition salts in the form of hydrobromides, hydrochlorides, trifluoracetates or acetates.

17. (New) A method for the determination of Thrombin-Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor a (TAFIa) comprising employing a compound according to claim 1 as a substrate for

the determination of TAFIa.

18. (New) Method according to claim 11 for the determination of TAFI in blood plasma comprising activation of this TAFI into TAFIa with thrombomodulin and thrombin bound to it, elimination of excessive thrombin activity by adding NAPAP, reaction of the resulting TAFIa in the presence of 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) on a compound according to claim 1 and spectrophotometric determination of the absorption between 400 and 412 nm resulting from the formation of 3-carboxy-4-nitrothiophenol as a function of time.

19. (New) Method according to claim 12 thereby characterized that the quantity of TAFI corresponds to 20 volume parts of a stock solution of 360 µg/ml, the quantity of thrombomodulin corresponds to 20 volume parts of a solution of 30 µg/ml, the quantity of thrombin corresponds to 20 volume parts of a solution of 2.7 U/ml, the quantity of NAPAP corresponds to 20 volume parts of a solution of 100 µM/ml, the quantity of 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) corresponds to 10 volume parts of a solution of 5 mM/ml and the quantity of a compound according to claim 1 corresponds to 20 volume parts of a solution of 10 mM/ml.